

CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים



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REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM

Winter 2015 - 2016



In our "Tips, Techniques & Tools" features we focus on specific methods and methodologies that enhance our research capabilities and effectiveness. I'd like to focus, however, on a more global methodology that can significantly impact our research efforts.

Networking is essential in our work. I'm not speaking solely of making connections with individuals, but also of sharing information and resources. Discussion groups hosted at JewishGen and its Special Interest Groups (SIGs) enable readers to do just that. One person finds a new website or document source, s/he posts in a relevant discussion group, and potentially hundreds, if not thousands, become acquainted with a new fount of information that opens a new or broadens an existing area of research. Likewise, social network groups, like our own JGSGP Facebook group, (<http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp>) enables members to share their discoveries. I belong to the Jewish Krasilov group and recently learned of potentially valuable YIVO records about the town and its New York City landsmanshaft. Years ago I spearheaded a fund raising effort to obtain vital records from Terespol, now in Poland, which spanned the period from the late 18th to the mid-19th centuries. JRI-Poland is an excellent example of researchers collaborating to underwrite and organize similar data for the benefit of untold numbers. When JGSGP members undertook the indexing of the ethnic bank records, they were motivated by the same desire to broaden the knowledge base, not just for themselves, but also for a much larger community.
(Continued on page 3)

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JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

JGSGP MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please make checks payable to JGSGP and mail to the address below. Please include your email address and zip+4 / postal code address.

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EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Submission of articles on genealogy for publication in *CHRONICLES* is enthusiastically encouraged. The editorial board reserves the right to decide whether to publish an article and to edit all submissions. Please keep a copy of your material. Anything you want returned should be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

While email and other electronic files are highly preferred, the editors will be happy to work with you and your material in any form. If you have an idea, please contact Evan Fishman of the Editorial Board by email: editor@jgsgp.org or by phone at 856-667-2077.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - ADDRESS CHANGE

CHRONICLES (ISSN 0893-2921) is the quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia. It is free to JGSGP members and to JGS's in the newsletter courtesy-exchange program. Printed and mailed back issues are available at \$4.00 each in the US and \$7.00 outside the US. *Chronicles* is published quarterly and distributed electronically in PDF format. Please supply the Vice President - Membership with your updated email address to ensure on-time delivery.

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Quiz Answer:
The late Arlen Spector was born in Wichita, Kansas and graduated in 1947 from Russell (Kansas) High School, also the alma mater of Senator Robert Dole. Spector served as U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania for thirty years.

(Continued from page 1) Thanks to JGSGP member Carol Robbins, we learned the story behind an oddly located tombstone in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia (*Chronicles*, Vol. 32-1, pp. 18-20). Our esteemed, Steve Schechter (z"l) was always on the lookout for material about genealogy. In April 2013 he sent me a link to an article in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*

([http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=cache:ErWGSK8ixp4J:http://articles.philly.com/2013-04-29/news/38880256_1_cares-day-comcast-](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=cache:ErWGSK8ixp4J:http://articles.philly.com/2013-04-29/news/38880256_1_cares-day-comcast-minks%2B%22aubrey+whelan%22+%2B+%22a+different+kind%22&oe=UTF-8&hl=en&&ct=clnk)

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about a volunteer cemetery clean-up project at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, (located in Southwest Philadelphia, just off Cobbs Creek Parkway) and added the message, “Wonder if the Mt. Moriah work included Hebrew Mutual too. This seems good content for *Chronicles* and perhaps we can be added to the volunteer notification list for other cemetery cleanup projects.” After the publication of a lengthy article about the ongoing restoration work at Gladwyne (Har Haseitim) cemetery in *Chronicles*, Vol. 32-1, pp. 7-10, JGSP member Shelda Sandler was able to find closure regarding the death of her grandmother’s newborn sister, an experience she shared in *Chronicles*, Vol. 32-2, pp. 15-16. Our research is and must continue to be a collaborative enterprise in its fullest sense.

In this issue Felicia Mode Alexander returns with the riveting sequel to her Spring 2015 (Vol. 32-2, pp. 19-22) piece on an unexpectedly far-reaching Holocaust research item. She educates us as to her research methodology while providing a moving chronology of the various discoveries that began with a Yad Vashem Page of Testimony she viewed at the 2003 IAJGS conference, which she characterizes as “the most important genealogical discovery in [her] thirty-one years of research: . . .”

In a preview of her May 1 presentation, Tammy Hepps opens our eyes into a different area of Jewish historical and genealogical research - the small town Jewish communities (which she labels “American *shtetls*”) that once thrived but have sadly fallen on hard times due to economic changes and migration. Her article is about the “theory” or the mission behind such research; her talk on May 1 dealt with the “practice.”

We hope you find our “Tips, Techniques & Tools” section useful and informative. James Gross provides a detailed report on backing up our valuable data, while Marge Farbman (“nice to have you back, Marge”) describes how photographs can enhance the stories of grandparents and great grandparents and their hobbies—baking, sports, or do it yourself (DIY) projects. In keeping with the theme of sharing and networking, Shelda Sandler demonstrates the usefulness of yearbooks and acknowledges help she received from a fellow JGSGP member.

In another piece Shelda briefly reviews three books she recently read about the Spanish Inquisition, a previously unfamiliar subject for her. Mary-Jane Roth also submitted brief book reviews and shares her newfound knowledge about the lives of Hungarian Jews during the 1930s and 1940s, the Russian Jewish experience in the Czar’s army in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and how to research and understand the American military during World War II. If you read a worthwhile book on Jewish history or genealogy, why not write a brief review so all *Chronicles* readers can benefit?

We’d like to invite you to participate in a new forum: “how to deal with anecdotal information?” We’ve all heard stories of varying veracity regarding members of our family, but how much credence should we give them? Should we accept them on blind faith or should we do research to prove or disprove them? In last summer’s issue, I described the apocryphal, albeit exciting, myth about my grandmother’s surviving the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. While it was thrilling to imagine her escaping that raging inferno, I felt grounded when I pieced together a more accurate account. Please submit your thoughts about anecdotal information to editor@jgsgp.org by May 22. We hope we’ll have a report to share in our next issue.

We could use additional help with publishing *Chronicles*, especially with regard to formatting. Please contact me at editor@jgsgp.org if interested. ❖

Evan Fishman, Editor

**WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS
& HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE NAMES & TOWNS
THEY ARE RESEARCHING**

Dr. Janie Brown Liebowitz from Budapest Hungary	Chesterbrook, PA	Lawrence Simon Steinbach of Zlkier Austria; Statman of England / Austria; Simon or Fendach Zolkier, Austria	Wynnewood, PA
Bruce Carroll Diane Driban Yichiel Krasnitsky, Wolf Petlashenko, Ruben Feldman	Mt. Laurel, NJ Wyncote, PA	Henry and Beth Sommer Leibner from Nowy Zmigrode, Poland Greher and Haar from Rzeszow, Poland, Fagin/Feigin from Voronezh, Chernigov Gub., Ukraine, Staroselsky from Voromezh, Chernigov, Gub., Ukraine; Krieger from Jaroslaw, Poland	Philadelphia, PA
Debbie Greene Remer/Rimer from Lipkan/Lipcani	Penn Valley, PA	Victoria Wolfe Kates from Riga, Latvia (Russia)	Berlin, NJ
Marvin Kline Paula Martino &/Allan Tepper Tepper, Weissblatt from Kurvasa near Moldova, Russia	Philadelphia, PA		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter 2016



Winter weather conditions may have been uninviting, but we continue to have interesting programs at our meetings. Program chair Mark Halpern does a great job of lining up very interesting speakers. If there is a particular topic you wish to learn about, please feel free to email Mark at programs@jgsgp.org.

From February 3-6 I attended the RootsTech 2016 in Salt Lake City. I was overwhelmed at the size of this conference. There were over 15,000 attendees and about 150 exhibitors. There was a variety of programs dealing with all areas of research including Jewish research. As many as eighteen classes occurred during the same time period. There were also seven keynote speakers. The keynote speaker I was most interested in seeing was presidential historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin. If you ever have an opportunity to travel to Salt Lake City for research, you might want to schedule it around RootsTech next year.

Registration is now open for the 2016 IAJGS conference in Seattle. You can register at www.iajgs2016.org. The focus of this conference will be "The Wandering Jew." Tracks will include: the Sephardic Experience in the United States; European Migrations; South American, Australian and South African Branches; Westward Ho! Jews in the Western U.S.; and Coming Home to Israel. As always, the conference is a great opportunity to network, meet new relatives and have a great educational experience.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with indexing projects. One in particular is to try to get cemetery records indexed. If you have an interest please email me at president@jgsgp.org.

Annual dues are now past due. If you wish to continue to receive *Chronicles*, our award winning publication, please send payment to our membership chair Susan Neidich at membership@jgsgp.org or you can pay by PayPal through our website.

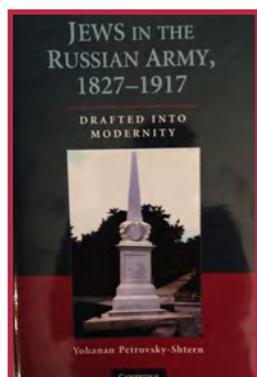
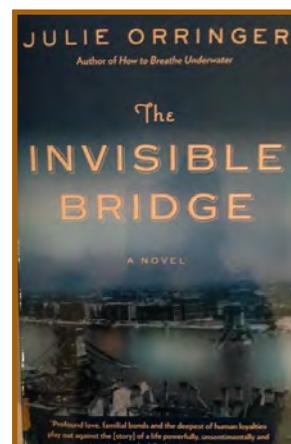
Thank you for the contributions and messages following my mother's death. She lived a long life and enjoyed attending society meetings. ❖

Fred Blum, President

BOOK REVIEWS BY MARY JANE ROTH

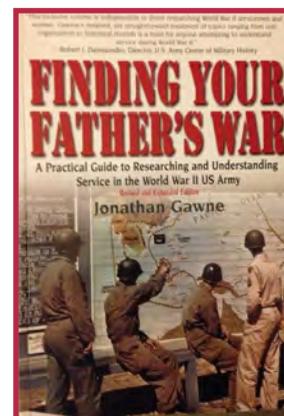


The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer. I had read a lot about the Shoah in Poland and Ukraine, but knew only a little about Hungary and the lives my relatives would have lived there in the 1930s and '40s. This novel, which traces the lives of two Jewish lovers from Budapest and the Hungarian countryside to Paris and back during that period, gives a detailed and fascinating picture of the times. On the first level, it is an engaging story of people caught up in the coming catastrophe, living their daily lives and hoping that the choices they make will keep them safe until the difficult times run their course. The writing enveloped me in the feeling of claustrophobia as the options were limited and the walls closed in on them and their families. On another level, it revealed to me elements of the Hungarian experience during the war that I was unaware of – such as the role of the labor camps where men were sent to work and sometimes came home for a break, only to be sent off again. This is a worthwhile read both as a novel and as a picture of what life was like for our Hungarian relatives.



Jews in the Russian Army, 1827-1917: Drafted into Modernity by Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern. In my research I have heard many stories of Jewish men who emigrated or injured themselves to avoid being conscripted into the Czar's army. These stories conflicted with what I heard from my great grandfather who had served the Czar and was very proud of it. He often said that it made him healthier and a better prospect as a husband. This scholarly book illuminates this contradiction, using Russian and Ukrainian archival sources to reveal the realities of Jewish conscription and the ways it was viewed by both the Jewish communities and the Russian bureaucracy. It also reveals how the conscription of Jews fit in with changing ideas (Russian and Jewish) about Jews as citizens with rights. This is a valuable read for anyone wishing to put their ancestor's experience into context.

Finding Your Father's War: A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II US Army by Jonathan Gawne. This book is invaluable for anyone who wants to understand a relative's service in the U.S. Army during World War II. There are chapters on the structure of the Army, what types of records were kept on individual soldiers and units, and how to find and interpret those records. The book is filled with photographs of medals, markings, patches and other clues to help you interpret those old photos of someone in uniform, as well as lists of the theaters and campaigns in which various units played a part. There is an appendix with definitions of the abbreviations and codes used on official personnel documents, such as the separation record that many soldiers kept for years after the war. There is also list of concentration camp "Liberator" units, and the camps that they liberated. It is, as the title suggests, a practical guide.



Mary-Jane Roth is a retired civil servant who has been researching her family tree for about fifteen years. Although she now lives outside of Washington, D.C., she lived for many years in and around Philadelphia where most of her ancestors lived. All of her maternal great grandparents (GROSSER, TEPPER, LIEBERMAN, KANDEL) came to Philadelphia in the 1890s, and the families stayed in the area. Many of them and their siblings lived into the late 1960s and 1970s passing family stories down during large and frequent family gatherings. These provided the basis for much of her initial research.

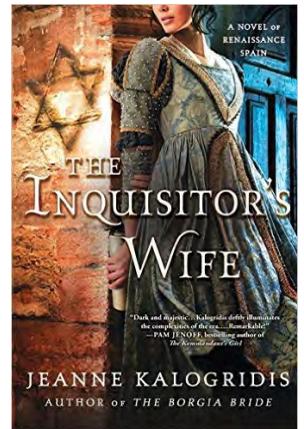
Mary-Jane now passes on the stories of her family in her family history blog www.memorykeepersnotebook.blogspot.com

THREE BOOKS ABOUT THE SPANISH INQUISITION REVIEWS BY SHELDA CAROL BACHIN SANDLER

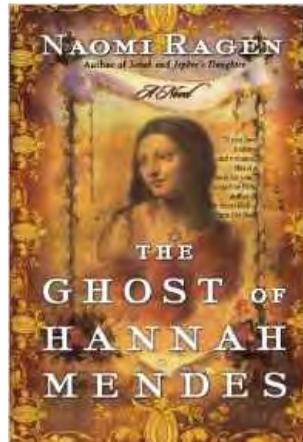


Until recently, I knew very little about the Spanish Inquisition except that many Jews (called the *conversos*) converted to Catholicism while continuing to secretly practice Judaism. If discovered – or even if suspected of practicing Judaism – they were tortured until death relieved them of the pain inflicted on them. From reading the following books, I learned how horrendous and deadly the Spanish Inquisition was and that Ferdinand and Isabella were indescribably cruel, ruthless monarchs! These books have also given me an education about the history of Sephardic Judaism. I would classify the first two books as historical novels.

While browsing at Barnes & Noble one day I was immediately taken when I read the subtitle “A Novel of Renaissance Spain” on the cover of *The Inquisitor’s Wife* by Jeanne Kalogridis. As I leafed through it, I realized I knew nothing about the history of Spanish Jewry. The history described in this book is harsh and unsettling. Queen Isabella was a staunch Catholic who was cruel to the Jews. Torture, until the Jewish captive prayed for death to come, is described in detail. This is not an easy book to read; however, the fictional part of the story has a surprise ending, almost an O’Henry twist – but it is just that...a story!



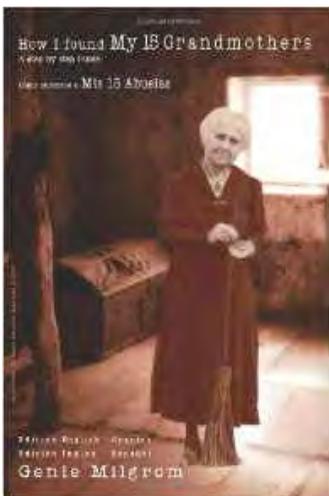
The second book I read about the Spanish Inquisition was *The Ghost of Hannah Mendes* American who has lived in Israel for the past written numerous novels about Jewish life. words, “...while I have made every effort to book is a work of fiction, and all characters nation, including those based on true histori-



by Naomi Ragen, an thirty years and has In the author’s own be true to historical facts in a broad sense, this and events described are works of the imagi- cal material...”

My 15 Grandmothers: The Journey of My Present by Genie Milgrom is a detailed true heritage. It

Soul from the Spanish Inquisition to the description of the author’s search for her made no difference whether I was Ashke- nazi or Sephardic; I was so engrossed in her story. Milgrom has a website about her journey: <http://www.geniemilgrom.com>



She traces an unbroken line back to her fifteenth maternal grandmother in 1430 in Portugal and Spain! The book is filled with genealogy and history as the author attempts to learn the truth about her family. She was accompanied on her second trip to her tiny, ancestral village of Feroselle (Zamora province) in western Spain by a small team consisting of her husband, a guide, and two renowned historians from the Madrid branch of *Tarbut Sefarad* which is a network of people and groups working for the promotion and dissemination of Jewish culture in the territory of *Sefarad* (Spain) and in major cities worldwide. What she saw and learned made chills run up and down my spine! This book is GREAT reading. I highly recommend it. ❖

Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler is co-chair of JGSGP’s Speakers Bureau. She was also Hospitality co-chair at the 2009 IAJGS-Philadelphia conference, co-chaired our first Genealogy Fair in June 2011, and is a frequent contribu- tor to “Chronicles.” You can reach Shelda at: stanshel@msn.com

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR 2016: BACKUP MY COMPUTER DATA

by James Gross



This topic for 2016 has been discussed before but is often ignored: do a backup of your important computer data. See my previous *Chronicles* articles on this topic from 2014⁽¹⁾ and 2013⁽²⁾. If you do not act to safeguard your computer files, it may be a question of when, not if, you lose all or part of your essential computer data. Why not give yourself a unique New Year's resolution: periodically perform a backup of your important computer data, or seek out a computer program or cloud-based service to assist.

For those of you who are Mac users, you may want to skim or read the article by Lex Friedman entitled, "New Year's Resolution: A Backup Plan," about Mac data backup⁽³⁾. Suffice it to say that Friedman recommends what I would also suggest, namely limiting your back up to essential folders. Friedman refers to this strategy as "thinking essential." In his article, he cites a 2011 article by Chris Breen entitled, "How To Make A Solid Mac Backup Plan." (4). This may be worth reading as well.

When it comes to backing up data, one typically thinks of data such as email, photos, and documents. I never bother with backing up my email as I use a separate IMAP email server called Yahoo. Other servers like Gmail serve the same purpose. They are cloud-based repositories of your email. I do keep some important saved email messages on my computer, which consist of email messages I have printed out to a pdf file. Cutepdf can be used to create a virtual PDF file⁽⁵⁾.

I am a PC user. A timesaving method to file backup should include file organization. I would suggest that you take your unorganized mass of files and organize them. How? Sit down and look at your files. You should try to organize your computer files and folders. Create file folders and subfolders for various categories such as family, genealogy, work, etc. This way, you will have your computer files, based on topic, subject, or category, contained within their respective subject based folders.

If you are working, you probably have a work folder. All work correspondence would go there. If you are involved in any men's or women's organization, you would have a folder for that. I have a folder for "Sigma Alpha Rho" as I am on their alumni board. I also have a folder called "Family", which contains family photos and videos. It continues to grow on a yearly basis as I add content.

I have another folder called "JGSPA". It represents this publication's parent organization, the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Philadelphia. When I receive a pdf copy of *Chronicles*, I save the attachment, and it is automatically saved to my PC's C drive download folder. I then move it to the newsletter subfolder of my JGSPA folder. These folders should all be located in your "My Documents" folder. It is important to try and remember to perform the extra step when saving a computer file, and place the computer file in the correct folder or subfolder.

The computer folder names which I have mentioned are an example of my essential folders. Your folder names may differ. These electronic folders are located within the hard drive in the computer on C drive. For those still using XP, the "My Documents" folder would be located at: "C:\users\user name\ Documents and settings \mydocuments." Within XP, the "My Documents," folder in the PC is where one's essential files are located. It is simple to save the entire folder to a portable hard drive or a flash drive.

I have a second or extra SATA hard drive inside my desktop PC. It is called "Drive D" by the computer. I can direct the software to periodically make a copy of my existing "My Documents" folder from Drive C to D. I can also save important files directly to the D drive. If I get a virus, I can unplug D drive and deal with the C drive. Laptop users

can simply connect a portable hard drive to their computer and copy the “My Documents” folder to the portable hard drive.

For those using Win7, the essential folder is C:\Users\User Name\My Documents. There is a Libraries feature in Windows 7 which makes it easier to manage your files and folders.

Windows 8 has a nifty backup feature known as “File History”. Once you set up File History, Windows 8 will save copies of your files on a regular basis, either to an external drive or a network share. It does this automatically in the background.

Unfortunately, backing up the computer is based on human efficiency, and we all know how busy and forgetful we can be. If you are too busy to conduct regular computer backups, there are two alternatives which may appeal to you: automated data backup software and cloud-based backup.

Cobian Backup is a free software program for computer backup. It is a very flexible program as it allows you to instruct your computer to perform one or more backup tasks. Each task can consist of a separate “source” and “destination.” There is a review of this program by Tina Sieber. ⁽⁶⁾

A number of companies offer cloud-based backup. Each should be examined for ease of automated backup, space allocation, and other features. Popular cloud-based storage companies include: Dropbox, Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive and iDrive.

Per a 2015 article in *Network World*, Dropbox offers 2 GB of free space, both Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive offer 15 GB of free space, while iDrive offers 5 GB of free storage. ⁽⁷⁾ Each also offers additional storage for a monthly fee. A useful review of online backup sites is available by Gizmos freeware. ⁽⁸⁾

For those interested in paying a monthly fee, an online source primarily focused on reviewing fee-based online backup services is Cloudwards.⁽⁹⁾ For this website or any other online review, I would suggest reading the user comments. I read that a few users had problems with their fee-based cloud storage companies in regard to getting refunds on trial subscriptions. If you decide to sign up for fee-based cloud storage, pay attention to the terms and time period of the refund policy.

In conclusion, I am curious as to whether any of you has had a computer crash. I am sure at least some of our readership have. In the late 1990s, I had a computer crash with an IBM compatible Dell desktop because an old hard drive had crashed. Though I paid for data retrieval from a well-known data retrieval company, I lost quite a number of genealogy files due to data corruption of the hard drive. One day, if your computer refuses to turn on, or you get hit with a power surge or flood, you will be thankful for the backup data. ❖

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Author James Gross has been working on his family tree since the early 1990s. A periodic contributor to various genealogy newsletters, James volunteers regularly at the Cherry Hill, New Jersey Family History Center where he helps other genealogists in their research. He also has a genealogy website: <http://tinyurl.com/gross-steinberg>. James can be reached at: navistar96@yahoo.com

NOW YOU HAVE NEW FAMILY STORIES... WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THEM?

by Marge Farbman



It's the beginning of 2016. You have had an opportunity to visit with family members over the holiday season. While you savored Grandma's latkes and Tante Gittel's kugel, the conversation turned to the great cooks in the family and their recipes and techniques. Other family stories that had long been forgotten were told and passed on, once again.

What do you do to preserve those memories, techniques, recipes, or stories? Why not add them to your family photo treasure trove? You don't have photos of Grandma frying those wonderful latkes, but you can write a word picture and the recipe and add them to your album. Or, if you are overwhelmed with photos not in an album but in a box, or boxes, tuck the story and recipe in with a picture of Grandma or Tante Gittel to be discovered by your children. If your stories were about other happenings, some recent as well as old stories, put those stories with their photos. Be sure that you clip the photos and written material together firmly with paper clips or carefully staple them together taking care to catch only the edges of the photo and written material.

In my own family my six granddaughters have inherited the baking gene. This year they provided the cookies and treats for desserts. Each of the girls made something different, their favorite thing to bake. It prompted me to tell them about my grandmother, my mother and her sisters. My grandmother had six daughters and as grown women, with families of their own, they each developed a baking area of expertise. My mother made the most divine pies, flaky crusts and fillings both "regular" and spectacular. Aunt Ida baked a cake every day! She allowed me to turn the mixer bowl, my first baking skill. And I could go with her to neighbors' houses to take them a share of her bounty. She would tell them how excellent a bowl turner I had become and, for a five year old, such praise was the best. Grandma baked bread, challahs, plain cookies, and my aunts each taught me how to master their baking favorites. I did find a picture of Aunt Ida sitting on a stool next to her mixer and photos of the others to share with my girls, but no pictures of those wondrous, delicious desserts.

Of course, my girls wanted to know all about the recipes, the techniques, the stories, and the disasters as well as the triumphs. One of my goals for this year is to write them down, make copies, and give them each their own copy of "Recipes from Mom," the loose-leaf cookbook I made for my daughters as they married. I think the new edition will be titled "Recipes and Stories from Grandma." I will sift through the albums I have completed and

the thousands of photos I have sorted and boxed to use or put in albums “some day”, and I’ll add photos to the recipes and stories. Our printer does a great scanning job, so I can keep the originals to use again, and the girls can have a face to go with those recipes.

If your family is filled with sportsmen, how about photos of other generations of sporting relatives and their stories. If your dad was a DIY expert, his photo and stories of things he made deserve pages in your scrapbook. If those things are still in use, take a picture of them in their current home or being used by the newest generation. Even better if the maker is still alive, get all the generations in the picture and tell the story of the item, the maker, and the newest users. Scrapbooks don’t have to be fancy. The most important thing is the photos. Label the back with a date, people identified, and where the photo took place. The story of the picture and the information from the photo back should be under, above, or around the photo to pass on that family history. Include recipes, how-to information from any family hobbies or skills, special drawing or art projects. Bits and pieces of fabrics, ribbons, string, yarn . . . Things that are important to you that tell about the heart and soul of your family. If you don’t want to write directly on the scrapbook page, write your story on a card of acid-free paper and firmly attach it to the page with the photo. Write it with a permanent ink pen. Your children will love seeing your handwriting. Future generations will treasure your handwritten stories and recipes.

With our new phones and their ever-improving cameras, we take more pictures than ever. We share them with Snapchat, with Picasa, or on Facebook. But the electronic media change so rapidly, and it is tough to cozy up to your mobile phone. Give yourself a wonderful gift. Print the best of the photos, and save them in a scrapbook to share with family and friends. If this seems too old-fashioned, make a scrapbook online, at the drugstore, at Costco... Make copies and give them to your family.

P.S. Do your bit for the future genealogists in your family. Give them a segment of their family history that is already completed, no research needed! ❖

Marge Farbman has a varied and concurrent career background in interior design, as a fundraiser, as a scrapbooking teacher, consultant and designer. She and her husband have raised four children, enjoy eight grandchildren and manage to do a bit of gardening and traveling to boot! Marge loves sending video email to family, friends and clients to keep them updated on her latest adventures. You can reach Marge at: margefarb@aol.com or 610-291-8988

HIT A SNAG IN YOUR RESEARCH? NEVER OVERLOOK THE KINDNESS & EXPERTISE OF A FELLOW JGSGP MEMBER: MY TRIBUTE TO JGSGP MEMBER, WALTER SPECTOR

by Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler



When I was a teacher at Shaw Junior High School in the Philadelphia School District back in the early days of my teaching career (notice how I’m avoiding the date!), I found a copy of my father’s yearbook in the school library. As an impoverished orphan, he couldn’t afford to purchase his own copy. Unfortunately, there were no photocopiers in “dem good ole days,” so the best I could do was hand-copy the information that was printed about my father.

My mother graduated from Stetson Junior High School one year after my father graduated from Shaw, and she apparently never had a copy of her junior high school yearbook either. I suspect my grandparents were not in a financial position to purchase a copy for her.

My parents did, however, have copies of their respective (West Philadelphia High School and Overbrook High School) yearbooks. I thought I would have to be satisfied with that; however, over the years and the more involved I became with genealogy, the more I wanted to have my own copies of the their junior high school yearbooks, especially the one from Shaw. I knew it had existed, because I had hand-copied items from it. I was never sure Stetson had a yearbook.

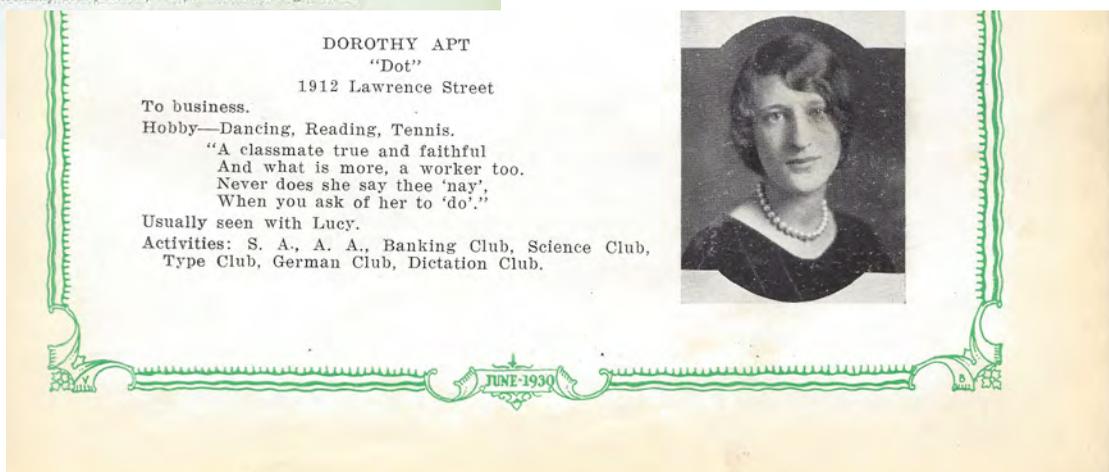
I started my search by calling Shaw, the school I knew from my days of teaching there. I got no help or encouragement from either the school librarian or principal. I then made numerous calls to the Philadelphia School District office, located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. That was even worse – no one answered the phone at any of the numerous numbers I called.



So where was I to continue my search? As luck would have (but I believe “someone” was looking over my shoulder and guiding me) I located an article from *Chronicles* which I had saved. Our very own Walter Spector had written an article in the Fall 2015 (Vol. 32-3) issue entitled: “Did You or Your Relatives Attend These Philadelphia Public Schools?” I reread it and immediately e-mailed and explained my predicament to Walt, asking him if he could recommend names and telephone numbers of people I could contact who might have

copies of the two yearbooks for which I was searching.

Here is the moral of my story and possibly one of the best reasons to belong to a genealogical society. Without a doubt, it is my tribute to Walter Spector.



The morning after I had explained my dilemma, Walt located the Stetson Junior High School yearbook in his own collection! He scanned the pages which contained information about my mother, and he emailed them to me. All the phone calls I attempted to make to the Philadelphia Schools did not produce one result ... yet within hours after sending one e-mail to Walt, he produced results that boggled my mind!

Walter Spector is a very special person, and he is a perfect example of why anyone interested in his/her family history needs to be a member of JGSGP, a group where people like to help other people in their quest for their family history. Footnote: Just hours after I wrote this tribute to Walt, I received another e-mail from him with this photograph which he had located in my father’s high school yearbook. My everlasting thanks and gratefulness go to you, Walt.

You are the true definition of a “MENSCH.” ❖

Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler is a frequent contributor to “Chronicles.” She is overjoyed at the information Walter Spector located for her. Shelda can be contacted at stanshel@msn.com.

FINDING MY ISRAELI COUSIN IN MEMORY OF HILDA, ELLY AND SIEGFRIED

By Felicia Mode Alexander



In my last column for *Chronicles* several months ago, I mentioned a follow-up article. It has not been an easy process to write because the content is sensitive and there is so much to this special story. This article will detail the culmination of thirteen years of research in multiple archives and combing through scores of digital documents. This project has integrated the academic fields of Jewish genealogy and the Holocaust to piece together the 200+ year history of a family that was nearly wiped out in the Shoah. If my hypothesis can finally be proven through further research, this family's story may also be my own.

In 2003, I attended my first IAJGS conference in Washington DC. Though not a novice genealogist, I had no idea that a single document discovered at this conference would impact my life, as well as the lives of a family in Israel who share my MODE surname. Connecting a record from long ago with living, breathing people is the field of genealogy at its finest. If one factors in the Holocaust, then that single document will come to mean a great deal more.

What I knew in 2003 before IAJGS: When my father and I began our family research in the early 1980s, we knew some important facts: family residence in the Boston area since the 1850s, temple affiliation and locations of their interments. We did not know with certainty where they came from. Like many immigrants, my great grandfather, Joseph Mode (1846-1935), changed his "origin story" based upon geopolitics during World War I: he denied connections to Germany and claimed to have come to America from Alsace in France, definitely not from Germany or Prussia. Alsace was a border region which had been under the rule of both France and Germany, depending upon the year, so this story was plausible. However, early in our research, my father and I found naturalization and census documents on my great great grandfather, Harris L. Mode (1804-1888) as well as his son Joseph, my great grandfather, his two other sons (Albert 1841-1907; Zachariah 1843-1930) and his daughter, Minna (1833-1915) on which their places of birth had been recorded as Bromberg, Wongrowitz, Posen, and even less specifically, Prussia. I now know that Wongrowitz was a town in the Administrative District of Bromberg, in the Province of Posen, in the Kingdom of Prussia!

This was consistent with the family's early affiliation in the 1850s with Temple Ohabei Shalom, Boston's oldest congregation, which was founded by immigrants from Posen. All of the information I would later discover about our Boston family led back to Posen and to the same occupation for the men, all of whom were tailors. Shortly after my father's death in 2001, I located a new branch of the Modes headed by Aaron who, after residing together with Harris in Boston, had moved to New York City. The given names were the same as my line, with additional ones due to the larger family size of the New York Modes. In my father's retelling of the stories he had heard growing up, there was no mention of a sibling of my great great grandfather Harris leaving Boston or of one who had been left behind in the old country. This new discovery meant that I had more work to do to complete our family history. This is where the new research comes in. Little did I know what I would find.

What I stumbled upon at the 2003 IAJGS: Jerusalem's Yad Vashem-the World Center for Holocaust Research, Documentation, Education and Commemoration offered attendees a limited access test run of a newly digitized database which included hundreds of "Pages of Testimony" submitted by people trying to locate survivors of the Holocaust. Since my father had always said that we were not directly impacted by the Shoah, I did not expect any hits in the Yad Vashem database. However, I was shocked when two Pages of Testimony popped up on my screen. They were for Berliners Siegfried Simon Mode and his wife, Elly Bock Mode and had been submitted in 1979 by their daughter, Hilda Mode Kaye. I was dumbfounded as I read these documents and then gazed upon Siegfried and Elly's photographs, staring up at me from the computer monitor. Who were these people? Was I related to them in any way? The surname Mode is extremely rare in the Jewish community. My first thought was instantaneous: I must find Hilda!

Links to Hilda's Pages of Testimony:

<http://db.yadvashem.org/names/nameDetails.html?itemId=2035032&language=en#!prettyPhoto>
and

<http://db.yadvashem.org/names/nameDetails.html?itemId=2035030&language=en#!prettyPhoto>



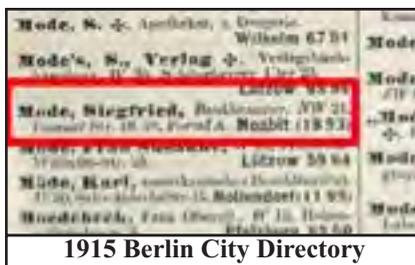
Siegfried Simon Mode



Elly Bock Mode

Finding the Berlin Mode connection: As soon as I returned home from IAJGS, I started to research the Modes from Berlin. The Pages of Testimony were a start, but I did not have much to go on. Since Hilda's address in her submission was in London in 1979, I knew the JewishGen community was my answer. I had already posted a few times to the JewishGen Discussion Group and decided to give it a try. To my shock and delight, it only took a few days for me to receive a reply from Ellen Cornberg, the daughter of Hilda Mode Kaye informing me that Hilda had passed away in 1989. I wish I could find those early emails between us because it would be interesting to see how gingerly we talked about her family, and I did not want to offend or upset Ellen. In addition, she was in Israel and I was in Pennsylvania, so a casual meeting over coffee was not an option...yet.

A collaboration between Ellen and me: Over many emails, Ellen shared what she knew. Her mother's family was from Berlin, and she was the only member of her family able to escape Berlin. Ellen scanned her mother's exit documents and sent them to me. She went to England less than one month before the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Traveling alone, Hilda's passage led to work as a domestic while awaiting word of her parents and extended family still in Berlin. I can only imagine the agony of this situation. Siegfried had been a banker; he was educated and successful in the interwar war years. With Ellen's permission, I re-Global Access subscription and found him in 1915, in the midst of World War I, when he was a *bankbeamter*, bank clerk. Then *her*, bank manager, and again in 1938 in were living on Pestalozzistrasse in Char-neighborhood in Berlin. This information this family before Hitler rose to power.



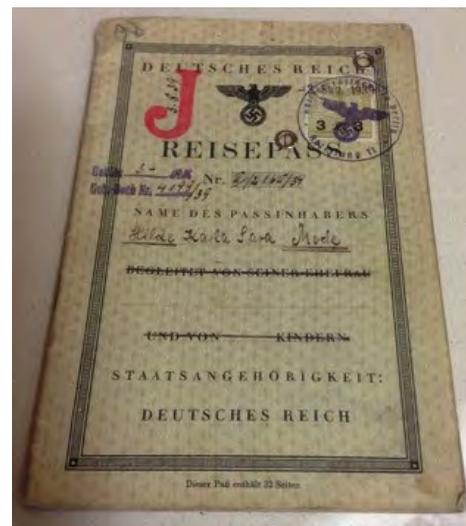
1915 Berlin City Directory

searched Siegfried using the Ancestry.com three times in the Berlin City Directory, first

he appeared again in 1925 as a *bankvorste*-the same position. At this time, the Modes lottenburg, a comfortable, middle class provides insight into the lifestyle enjoyed by

For many German Jews, a comfortable life in the middle class may have given a false sense of security and/or protection from further erosion of rights, even after the Nuremberg Racial Laws were instituted in 1935. By the time of *Kristallnacht* on November 9, 1938, the danger had become clear to most. Even the most assimilated city dwellers realized their peril, but for many it was too late to gain the appropriate documents or funds to emigrate. I believe this is why only Hilda emigrated to England, and why it was literally in the nick of time, with the start of World War II only a few weeks away. After Hilda was sent to Britain she never saw her parents again.

Hilda's exit documents from Germany in 1939. Note the Nazi stamps and the addition of the name "Sara" to her documents. All documents of German Jews had to include the name "Israel" for males and "Sara" for females, per the Reich.





What happened to Hilda's parents?

On the Pages of Testimony Hilda submitted to Yad Vashem, she wrote “Arrested and taken by train to Poland. Never arrived. January 1941”. She also listed their parents’ names and where they had lived prior to the war. To honor their memory, I too will share this information. Siegfried’s parents were Carl and Anna Helene Franck and Elly’s parents were Heinrich and Marta Bock. Sadly, Hilda never found out where Elly and Siegfried Simon had been sent or what happened to them. It might have given her closure, or perhaps not knowing was a blessing in disguise.

Ellen and I have spoken at length about her mother, and she has shared with me the lingering, unspoken and unresolved grief that her mother carried with her for the rest of her life. In 1944, Hilda married Ellen’s father, Rudyard Kaye (ne Kutner). Rudy had also immigrated to England from Germany in 1939, but unlike Hilda, was with other family members. He was home on leave from service in the British military when they married. Hilda and Rudy raised Ellen in England. Since Hilda had been sent away to the safety of England by her family, there may have been an element of survivor’s guilt for her.

I have heard these thoughts expressed by other trauma survivors, including my own father, whose World War II combat experiences left him with a lifetime of survivor’s guilt and nightmares. I have invited Holocaust survivors to visit my classes. Whether their experiences were in concentration or slave labor camps, living in hiding, or in any of the other horrific circumstances over which they had no control, they almost always end their testimonies by telling the students that they only survived due to luck.

I believe that the worst part for Hilda and perhaps others who survived the war was the paradoxical luck in surviving yet simply not knowing. Were any relatives still alive and trying to find them? What happened to them? Most survivors could not return to their pre-war homes, and many were in Displaced Persons camps for months or even years, thus making the search all the more frustrating and painful.

What could I do to help complete this story? Once I learned Hilda’s story from Ellen, I knew that whether or not these Modes were part of my own family, I had to do the research and find out whatever I could. Hilda passed away in 1989 and would never learn the results of my research, but I would like to think that she would be at peace with what I have been able to share with Ellen about her grandparents and most recently about her ancestry. I hope the culmination of my efforts will fill in the blanks for Ellen, her children and her grandchildren.

Hilda’s Immediate Family in Berlin: Not too long after the test run of the Pages of Testimony, other documents started to become available to researchers through the digitized Yad Vashem files. There was an option to cross-reference by last name/maiden name, place of residence or same source. Through this process, I found additional lists available through Yad Vashem. I learned that both Elly Bock Mode and Siegfried Simon Mode had been sent to Riga, Latvia

on Transport #9 on January 19, 1942 with 1000 other prisoners.

Transport #9 link from Yad Vashem:

(<http://db.yadvashem.org/names/nameDetails.html?itemId=4122034&language=en>)

They were deported from the Berlin-Grunewald station, the point of departure for most of Berlin's Jews. I visited this site with a group of Holocaust educators in 2008, never knowing that I would learn more about this tragic place re-searching Elly and Siegfried. Without even realizing the future significance of my picture, I took a series of random

photographs of the memorial plaques that mark all of the transports of deportees from this station, ironically capturing the one immediately before that of Elly and Siegfried.

On the Yad Vashem website, there is a page dedicated to Transport



My photo of Berlin-Grunewald Memorial and the plaque of the transport that preceded Elly and Siegfried's transport of 1002 souls on January 19, 1942.

#9. It includes video testimony of survivors of Transport #9 from the Shoah Visual History Collection. Out of respect for Ellen and her family, I will include only the link to this page but not the actual text that describes the horrors of their transport and its aftermath:

<http://db.yadvashem.org/deportation/transportDetails.html?language=en&itemId=5092956>

Until the last decade, there was little confirmation available as to where deportees had been taken or what had happened to them. The Germans kept detailed records, but in situations like the liquidation of the Riga Ghetto, the *Einsatzgruppen* (paramilitary death squads of Nazi Germany that were responsible for mass killings, primarily by shooting, during World War II) mobile killing squads were involved, and few records exist, let alone specific lists of the murdered ghetto detainees. Christopher Browning wrote extensively about the *Einsatzgruppen* in his book, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*.

What is known about the final outcome for people like Elly and Siegfried (ages 51 and 65 when they arrived at Riga) is that if they could not work as slave laborers, they were killed. Ultimately and tragically, most of the residents of the Riga Ghetto were murdered in the Rumbula Forest outside the city. This is described in more depth in the Holocaust Encyclopedia on the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM):

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005463>

Hilda's efforts to find her family: After the war ended, and unable to locate her parents, Hilda contacted the Red

Cross, as did thousands of others, desperate for word on loved ones who had disappeared. Ellen told me that her mother had tried multiple times to find more information, but she did not have any documents other than her mom's exit papers from Berlin in 1939 and a few old documents in old German about an ancestor who had died a century earlier. I thought I might be able to help with this.

I met with the one of the researchers at the USHMM about Hilda's search request. The USHMM is one of a handful of sites worldwide with open access to the files of the International Tracing Service, which only opened its archives in Bad Arolsen, Germany in November 2007. The researcher conducted an online search for me, and I left with a folder of documents. Sadly, no new information was revealed. What I was able to witness was a paper trail of the repeated efforts of Hilda and a distant cousin in Lisbon, to reach out to the Red Cross. I am sure their hope of finding Siegfried and Elly faded with each passing year. That was not to be the case, and Hilda's file was closed in 1954.

A new chapter begins: Two years ago, Ellen came to the United States with her husband, Martin. Their son had moved to the Baltimore area and was marrying an American! Great news! Despite the fact that the research conducted to that point had not connected our ancestors, we decided to meet and become better acquainted. Hilda had connected us in a way, and we were no longer strangers. What better place than a Barnes and Noble... so we met halfway between Baltimore and Philadelphia and had a lovely conversation over coffee. Truthfully, I believe the late Steve Schechter was with us for our first meeting. He always advocated a coffee and schmooze to talk about genealogy. I shared everything I had from my research and hoped that I would one day be able to connect our families through a common ancestor. We parted with plans to get together again. When Ellen returned to Israel, she went through her mother's papers and found a few more interesting documents that she had forgotten about, including the naturalization certificate for her great great grandfather Simon Mode!

Let the fun begin! Ellen's timing with the documents she sent me could not have come at a more opportune time. I



**Our first get together over coffee:
Me, Ellen Kaye Cornberg and Martin Cornberg**

had found Simon years before as a result of Lars Menk's book, *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*. I contacted Lars privately at that time, and he provided me with a critical piece of information that I could not use then, but am thrilled to have now. He had found a Simon Mode from Kobylin, Prussia, born in Murawana Goslin, who was naturalized in 1830 and lived in Berlin! However, I still had nowhere to go with this information.

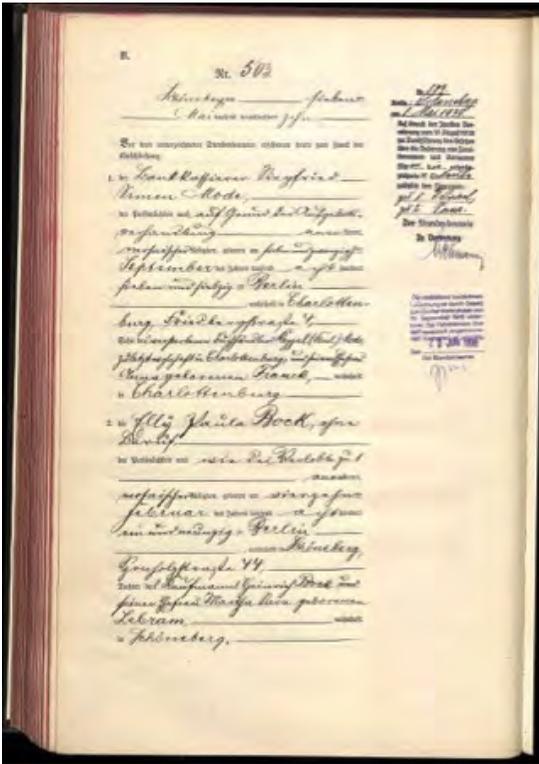
Ten years later, in August 2015, Berlin opened its municipal archives for digital research! With the invaluable help of my friend and fellow GerSIG researcher Roger Lustig, translating for me while we both pored through the digital records, I was able in one night (albeit a number of hours) to reconstruct the family tree of the Berlin Modes going back to the 1700s. I was thrilled to be able to share this in-

formation with Ellen. Not only do we know the names of Siegfried and Elly's parents, from Hilda's Pages of Testimony, but Roger and I went back not one, but two more generations on the Mode side. We have the names and dates of all four of Siegfried's grandparents and seven out of eight of his great grandparents.

One of the most exciting documents that Roger translated was the death certificate of Simon Mode in Berlin. It stated that he had been born in 1805 in Murowana Goslin, in what was then Posen, Prussia. Using Google maps, I determined that this town is a mere 22 miles from the town of my own ancestors, Wongrowitz! Simon is most likely the younger brother of my great great grandfather Harris Mode and his brother Aaron. Finding his birth certificate would be the only way to prove this hypothesis. As for me, I am not done yet. The research continues on Elly's side, though I did locate the municipal marriage

document of Elly and Siegfried Simon.

Though we cannot bring Elly and Siegfried back, their story is now complete for future generations. As Ellen has said to me, we have become like family but it would be nice to be able to prove this to be fact so my extensive tree of 223 souls and Ellen's tree which now includes 39 can officially become OUR family tree! ❖



The municipal marriage document of Elly and Siegfried Simon.



Ellen, her parents and children at Jerusalem's Western Wall in 1988 about a year before Hilda's death. The family moved to Israel in 1994.



A special education teacher in the East Windsor, NJ Regional School District, Felicia Mode Alexander has taught both middle and high school world history and has been actively involved in Holocaust education, connecting her students with survivors and escorting them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington D.C. each year. She is a member of the Jewish Genealogical Societies of Greater Philadelphia and Boston and is researching MODE, SHUMAN, ABRAHAMS, BORNSTEIN in Berlin and Posen; GROSSMAN, LONGBORD and TAL-IAFSKY in the Kiev region. You can contact Felicia at fmode@verizon.net

HOMESTEAD: MY AMERICAN SHTETL

by Tammy Hepps



Not long after I become involved in the organized Jewish genealogy community, I began to notice that my fellow Ashkenazi researchers self-organized into groups focused on their ancestral shtetls. Watching their activities from afar, I wanted to be a part of such a warm, hardworking research community, but no groups existed for the places my family left. Naturally I was encouraged to start a new one, but the idea didn't excite me: all my ancestral shtetls were just too remote in my family's history. Five of my great-grandparents were in this country by 1890, and the rest came as teenagers before 1912. No stories about their experiences in the "Old Country" made their way to me.

Instead, my enthusiasm began to settle on a small Jewish community of a very different sort, the one in Western Pennsylvania where one branch of my family lived and worked and prayed from the late 1880s through the 1950s. As I dug into researching the town of Homestead, Pennsylvania, I began to notice that the actual work I was doing didn't look all that different from the activities of shtetl groups I admired. We were focused on the same time period. We were mining the same kinds of records and the memories of the same generation of people. Crucially, we were all researching places where Jews no longer live.

Homestead became my access point into a way of Jewish life that no longer exists in America. The 20% of Jewish immigrants who settled in small towns lived very differently from our urban ancestors. The first arrivals were largely peddlers, not factory workers, who were able to enter the middle class far more quickly than they could have amidst the poverty of the city. Although it was harder to live a traditional Jewish lifestyle in these places – for one thing, it was economic suicide not to open your store on Shabbat – they made up for it with active, tight-knit, communities. In short, these places were not microcosms of urban Jewish communities, but an alternate mode of Jewish living which challenges our assumptions about education, assimilation, anti-Semitism, upward mobility, and many other tropes of the Jewish American experience.

In Pennsylvania this pattern of Jewish life was especially well established, given the state's rich history of heavy industry. When a small town cropped up around a steel mill, coal mine, or railroad hub, a Jewish community often followed to sell goods and services to the laborers and managers alike. Their contributions helped to turn these small, far-flung settlements into livable towns. As a result, it's easier in small town communities to see the inherently entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant ancestors, not only in the spirit that motivated them to establish their own businesses, but also in the very risk they took in settling away from the urban enclaves, and especially in the numerous Jewish institutions they created entirely from scratch. Cemeteries and synagogues, of course, were the first, but social and charitable organizations often quickly followed, providing a range of ways to be Jewishly engaged outside of the home.

Though these places were often religiously self-sufficient, they weren't isolated. One of the most delightful aspects of my research into Homestead has been tracing the giant family networks that linked all of the small towns of Western Pennsylvania to each other and radiated out across the country. Philadelphia featured strongly in these networks, both because it was a jumping-off point for people headed further west into Pennsylvania, and also because it was a place which western garment and dry goods merchants visited bi-annually to purchase new stock. Many of us have in our Philadelphia family trees ancestors who, seemingly, left the family fold – the brother who became a merchant in a small town or the sister who married such a merchant – but all the evidence I've been finding shows that these families remained in contact and visited each other regularly, just as we do today. The world views of even our most untraveled South Philly ancestors would have encompassed these small towns in their understanding of what Jewish life could be in this new country.

Today, with their Jewish communities having largely left, these New World shtetls are powerful places of memory. I've been moved to realize how many of us with ties to these places, both former residents and descendants, retain an identification that transcends time and distance and make a point to visit our ancestral synagogue, cemetery, and family homes when the opportunity presents itself. These visits are critical. As Dr. Karen Underhill explains:

...Jewish places do not have an existence in and of themselves. They only come into existence in the moment that someone engages with them, and incorporates them into a Jewish story—be it their own, or one that someone is telling them. Thus one object or one place, be it a restored synagogue, a *shtetl*, a city street, or a country road, represents an infinite number of potential Jewish places, waiting to emerge. If no one should come, they will continue to wait—as so many potential Jewish places have waited...

(<http://www.jewishrenaissance.org.uk/taste-jr/jews-of-krakow.pdf>, p. 14).

Though she speaks of Poland, these small towns in the U.S. are waiting, too, and are in many ways even more forgotten than their counterparts in Eastern Europe. So, it is incumbent upon us family historians to engage meaningfully with our family's history in the places our general history neglects. Studying all the places that helped shape our modern Jewish-American identities will teach us overlooked lessons of the past, lessons that are especially relevant to today's anxiety around Jewish continuity.

Learn more about Homestead's Jewish community and my research at HomesteadHebrews.com. *Note: Tammy's lecture at the May 1 meeting dealt with the mechanics of researching a family's life in a small town. More information in the meeting summary in the spring issue.* ❖

JGSGP member, Tammy A. Hepps, is the founder of Treelines.com, a family story sharing website, and a past winner of the RootsTech Developer Challenge. With fifteen years of experience in digital media and more than two decades in genealogy, she brings a fresh perspective on combining creative research, cutting-edge technology, and meaningful storytelling to make family history more engaging. This past spring she presented her current research into the Jewish community of one of her ancestral towns, documented at HomesteadHebrews.com, at the Library of Congress.

FORUM

HOW TO DEAL WITH ANECDOTAL INFORMATION?

We've all enjoyed hearing anecdotes about our relatives. They spice up the narrative in our family history research, but should we accept them on faith or spend time checking out whether they are based in fact or not?

In the February 7 edition of the JewishGen discussion group digest, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island announced that reporter and poet, Rita Gabis, would be discussing her book, *A Guest at the Shooters' Banquet: My Grandfather's SS Past, My Jewish Family, A Search for the Truth*, at its next meeting. She chronicles her research into her beloved maternal grandfather's past. He had been "hailed as a hero for fighting against the Russians as a partisan and saving his family." (See more at: <http://sfi.usc.edu/profiles/rita-gabis>). Over a period of five years she learned that to the contrary he had actually been the chief of the deadly Security Police (or Saugumas) in the Švenčionys region of Lithuania. Two major massacres took place there, one of which was the Poligon massacre in the fall of 1941 when 8,000 Jews were murdered in over three days. Gabis attempts to unravel the deeper conflict within her family's past, explain why the two sides of her family didn't intermingle very often, and better understand the juxtaposition of growing up as the daughter of a Lithuanian Catholic mother and an Eastern European Jewish father.

1. What would be your reaction to learning such a dramatic twist?
2. We all have skeletons in the closet. Would you share this information with other family members or keep it under wraps?
3. How would you share this information if you made that choice? In a conversation or in a more permanent way by including it in a written narrative?
4. Are we obligated to always speak the truth? What about possibly damaging the memories that spouses, children, or grandchildren have of this relative who turns out to have a less than savory past?

Please send your thoughts to editor@jsgsp.org by May 22nd.

NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

“JewishGen’s JOWBR Project: The Genealogical Value of Jewish Cemetery Records”

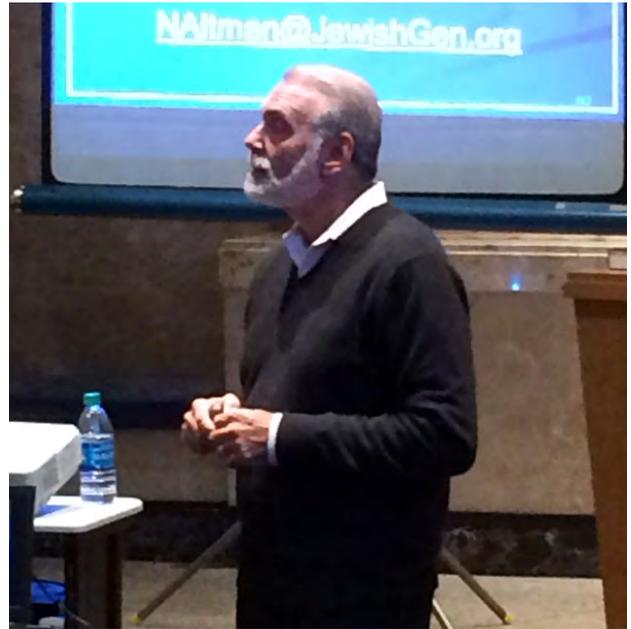
Presentation by Nolan Altman

JewishGen VP for Data Acquisition, Past President of JGS-Long Island

Nolan caught the genealogy bug in 1996, inspired by memory of his mother.

Descendent Charts – surnames and naming conventions

- Ethnic differences
- Patronymics (being named after the father): examples:
 - Erik the Red > Leif Erikson > Thorkell Leifson
 - Rzeznik > Rzeznicki > Rzezski (butcher)
- English: “son” / s is appended to father’s last name
- Scandinavian: son = “sen” as in Larsen
- Ireland, Scotland: “Mc/Mac”
- Welsh: “Ab”
- Poland - Son of Abram + “owicz” = Abramowicz
- Polish, Czech, Russian: “ski/sky” – son of
- Italian: “ucci” – descendant of
- German, Swedish: “burg, borg” (castle)



Legacy names show where they came from – Berliner (Berlin), Moscovitz (Moscow), Warschawski (Warsaw)

Look for patronymic names on www.JewishGen.org in Burial Records under “Research” tab. Currently there are 2.4 million burial records, 465,000 headstone photos, 5400 cemeteries/cemetery sections represented, records from 115 countries including Bolivia, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Mauritius, Peru, Kenya, Netherlands Antilles, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Haiti, Mongolia & Eritrea.

Listing of worldwide Jewish cemeteries is on www.iajgs.org/cemetery - IAJGS Cemetery Project.

Listing of websites and cemetery restoration project. Records come from volunteers, cemetery administrators, genealogical societies, synagogue or community *Chevra Kadishas* (organizations of Jewish men and women who see to it that the bodies of deceased Jews are prepared for burial according to Jewish tradition and are protected from desecration, willful or not, until burial), and donors and volunteer translations. Information comes directly from cemetery headstones, cemetery or burial society registers, published historical material, and funeral home records.

JOWBR main index

Scroll down in folders in countries, regions, and cities. 67,000 in Pennsylvania, 3 listings in Philadelphia including Montefiore and Mount Carmel. Movies on the web site show how to do this.

- Fields include first and last names, birth and death dates, age, etc. Include family names when submitting.
- Asked cemetery for family members, all people buried of the same last name in the cemetery, and checked Hebrew names on the stones.
- Symbols: Kohen’s hands, Levi’s water pitcher, broken tree for someone whose life was shortened, a lamb for innocent child.
- How to Read a Jewish Headstone (www.JewishGen.org/infofiles/tombstones.html):
 - *Pei-Nun* = *Po niftar/nifteret* = here lies; פה נפטר/ת = פ-נ
 - *Ben or Bat* for son or daughter of
 - Hebrew dating is done by using Hebrew letters: 1 – 10 = *aleph through yud* (א - י), then using *kaf* (כ) through *tzadi* (צ) for 20s, 30s, etc. through 90, then using *kuf* (ק) through *tav* (ת) for 100, 200, 300, and 400. Compute the numerical value of each letter, then add the respective values to figure out the date. The “5000” is omitted.

- *Niftar* (died)
- Letter “*resh*” just means “mister.” *Rav* however means rabbi.
- Shortcut: go to Stephen Morse’s site to translate dates and find matching English date. (www.stevemorse.org/jcal/tombstone.html)
- Tombstones aren’t automatically correct—depends on information given and the stonecutter. For example, spellings of surnames of spouses can differ. All kinds of errors appear: “February 31” for example.

JewishGen’s Memorial Plaque Project is a separate database to be used as a companion to JOWBR.

Conceived by JGS-LI. Memorial plaques from closing synagogues can be adopted by Jewish genealogical societies (JGS), historical societies, individuals, Bar/Bat mitzvah students, Hillel groups, and other organizations. Plaques can be found in other synagogues than where the named went to *shul* (small synagogue); family members may dedicate plaques in memory of their parents and grandparents. This project serves as a permanent source for information which could be lost when synagogues merge.

Use Town Finder to find old town names if they’ve changed. They’re listed using present day names of towns and countries.

Leo Baeck Institute has books of photographs of Jewish cemeteries before they were desecrated.

New York Genealogical Society website has list of area burial societies.

JewishGen made arrangements with Ancestry years ago for data sharing and provided information from our databases. They may have put in the wrong field, date of burial instead of date of death. Not everything on JewishGen is on Ancestry since the data sharing deal expired about five years ago; however, everything on Ancestry is available through JewishGen.

JOWBR is updated twice a year. ❖

Contact Nolan at naltman@jewishgen.org

DECEMBER 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

“Researching Your Roots in Ukraine with the Ukraine SIG”



Presented by Lara Diamond – Ukraine Sig Projects Director, President of Jewish Genealogical Society of Maryland. <http://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com> or on Twitter: @larasgenealogy

- Not true that all records were destroyed during World War II. A lot has been indexed and is on-line through Ukraine SIG
- Surnames are searched according to their Soundex value; be creative re: spelling. Same for given names: Tzipra = Tzipporah = Zloty

- JewishGen Town Finder. Town names changed according to who ruled at the time. Discussed name variations.
- JewishGen/Ukraine SIG Database – some documents haven’t yet been translated.
- Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) in Jerusalem – Ukraine SIG is getting copies of their documents and translating them.

- FamilySearch has a lot of records on microfilm @ \$7.50/microfilm. They are in the process of being indexed so they can be digitized, searchable, and translated. Family History Centers are located in Northeast Philadelphia (near Jewish Y) as well as Morrisville, Doylestown and Cherry Hill. Bring thumb drive to copy data. Ukraine SIG is hoping to digitize them.
 - Many males' births were not recorded because of gaps.
 - Life events were recorded by the local rabbi who was appointed by the local government to do so in each town.
 - Records appear in Russian (sometimes left page) and Hebrew (right page). Suggestion: learn to recognize family name in Cyrillic characters.
 - Suggested aids: ViewMate feature on JewishGen, "Tracing the Tribe" on Facebook, Routes to Roots Foundation (www.routestoroots.com). Some record sets exist but aren't catalogued.
 - Use JewishGen to find towns in two ways:
 - Town Finder
 - Gazetteer (for small towns). Gazetteers often list towns nearby through coordinates (10-30 miles away).
 - Maps in map room of Free Public Library of Philadelphia; made by Army Corp of Engineers during World War II.
 - Hiring local researchers: get references. Spell out what you expect to get, such as originals.
 - Other examples: Targeted search "look in Fond 453, opus 4, for mention of my family in the 1834 census"
 - Broad Search – "What is available on my family?"
 - Locations of other family member
 - Some documents that local researchers can find will never get indexed.
 - Things move at the "speed of Ukraine." Can get expensive as a result.
 - Contact country archives, usually located in larger cities. Lithuania is faster than Ukraine in responding. Many are understaffed and therefore unable to do searches. Some never respond.
 - Crowd funding case study—researcher needs to raise \$xxx to hire researcher to search for two families in a town's metrical records and then photograph records.
 - JewishGen – set up a project with Ukraine SIG to raise money (tax-deductible).
 - Subscribe to Ukraine SIG; get on mailing list.
 - Contact JGFF (JewishGen Family Finder) to find others interested in same town.
 - Excess money raised was used to fund other projects.
 - Another individual volunteer volunteered to transcribe/translate material.
 - Records obtained this way will ultimately be indexed at UKR SIG.
- Other suggestions:**
- UKR SIG mailing list

- Yad Vashem (even if your family came over pre-World War II)
- Yizkor Books—may contain information about relatives who didn't immigrate.
- KehilaLinks sites (town pages, formerly Shtetl Links). If not currently managed, you can volunteer to manage it.
- Center for Jewish History/YIVO – information about your town, landsmanshaft records.
- USHMM - US Holocaust Memorial Museum databases, direct link to International Tracing Service records.
- Google town and family names– find and share information with others.
- Immigrant Bank Records. On JewishGen (paid) and PJAC (Philadelphia Jewish Archives at Temple University) web sites.
- Draft information may be found in specific town's records. Sometimes listed as conscripted (drafted) or will be drafted on census records. Perhaps will also have list of deserters.
- Military historical archive located in Moscow. Google “World War I records”, for example, and use Google Translate.
- Census – revision lists from one year to another, listing ages at both times. If indexed, it'll be on JewishGen.
- Marriage dates listed in civil marriage records were often later than when religious marriages actually occurred. Marriages were legitimized according to the state through these civil records; without them, children born to those couples were listed as “illegitimate.”

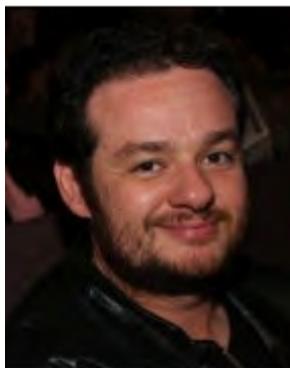
General Information:

- Research Library > Historical Society of Pennsylvania located at 13th and Locust Streets; contact Fred Blum (president@jgsgp.org) for free passes to do research there.

(Note: January 2016 JGSGP meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather)

FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

Cassio Tolpolar's “Mamaglia Blues”



In 1931, Abram Tolpolar and his wife, Rachel, emigrated from Bessarabia/Moldova to southern Brazil. Seventy-seven years later (May 2008), their only child, Mauro Tolpolar, made the trip back. Accompanied by his two children, who never had a chance to meet their paternal grandparents, Mauro visited his parents' birthplace and also found answers to an unrevealed past.

Using the one remaining photograph of a lost family grave, the Tolpolar's drove through ancient villages, walked in the bushes of abandoned cemeteries and met locals while searching for what happened to their relatives who disappeared during the Holocaust and getting to know the current Jewish community in Moldova. Their genealogical search “turned out to be a deep journey into history and memory.” The trip and research resulted in his son, Cassio's documentary, entitled “Mamaliga Blues.” (Mamaliga is a staple, porridge-like food in Moldova and one of the few

common elements found throughout the country.) Sadly, they were unsuccessful in locating that grave.

Two months later their guide notified them that she had found the elusive grave in one of the most impressive and untouched cemeteries remaining in Eastern Europe - - Vadul Raskov. In his book, *Like Shells on a Shore*, Simon Geissbühler wrote, “The Jewish Cemetery is neither on the list of the International Jewish Cemetery Project nor in the inventory of *Lo Tishkach* [Hebrew for “Do Not Forget”]. At least now the Jewish cemetery in Vadul Raskov is documented in this book.” Four years later Cassio returned to Moldova, visited the grave of his great grandparents (Meyer and Ene Tolpolar), and photographed his young children in front of its remnant.

“Mamaliga Blues” was produced and directed by Cassio Topolar, and he developed a companion website devoted to the film, which includes a listing of relevant genealogical resources: <http://www.mamaligablues.com/#!/genealogical-resources/cs16>.) In his comments on the larger import of his film, he indicated:

“This personal narrative brings us to a larger scale, reflecting on communities and society, because it is through history and a collection of individual stories that each society is able to mirror itself and move forward. It is an inherent human characteristic to try to comprehend where we come from and to reflect on the past in an attempt to understand the present and, perhaps, the future.” (http://media.wix.com/ugd/bc5d71_d34076e8ce254f6891df5c402f778dcb.pdf) ❖

*Note: Simon Geissbühler is an independent Swiss political scientist, researcher, and former diplomat. He has written widely on the history of Romanian Jewry and on Jewish heritage sites in East Central Europe and is the author of several books on the subject. He chronicled the mass murder of Jews in rural northern Bukovina and northern Bessarabia in his book, *Bloody July: Romania and the Holocaust in Summer 1941*.*

MARCH 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

“Letters from a Judean”

Presentation by David Brill (brilldr@comcast.net)

David provided insight into the collection of letters, postcards, photographs, and souvenirs his maternal grandmother received from an American Jewish member of the Jewish Legion during World War I. Now almost 100 years old, these items form a remarkable record of a young man’s experience fighting with the “Judeans”. They also cast a fascinating light on subjects ranging from relations between Jewish and non-Jewish soldiers, to the vibrant Zionist youth culture of Philadelphia, to ordinary soldiers’ impressions of the Zionist leaders of the day.

Brill's grandmother kept these documents her entire life because she recognized their historic significance. In this presentation he described the collection in detail and also discussed how he used JewishGen’s resources to find William’s descendants.

Part 1 - Background

A. Main Characters in the story

18-year-old American Jew, William Z. Porter left Philadelphia in February 1918, joined the 39th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers—the Jewish Legion-- to fight in Palestine for a Jewish state.



Photo Courtesy Gene Hurwitz

Fannie Wilensky received letters from him for two years. (Fannie Levene nee Wilensky was David's grandmother).

B. What was the Jewish Legion?

Brainchild of Ze'ev Jabotinsky who wanted a Jewish legion. It was an informal name of the five units of the Royal Fusiliers.

C. Who were the legionnaires?

Comprised of about 7000 Jewish men from various countries.

Men joined for many reasons: adventure, to counter anti-Semitism, did not want to fight for Russia, for example.

D. Fannie joined Stars of Zion Club in South Philly;

She and William became friends through a thriving and complex network of Zionist youth clubs.

Part 2 - Conditions William encountered

A. Citizenship:

William Porter was a U.S. citizen in 1916. Rules were bent; he was recruited for the British, but he shouldn't have been.

B. Training Camp:

Rudimentary training at Fort Edward (a major British army training depot and deployment site for Canadian and Jewish Legion trainees) in Windsor, Nova Scotia. There was a mixture of Jews and non-Jews from a variety of backgrounds.

C. Jew versus Gentile:

Boxing matches were held aboard the transport ship. These matches proved that Jews were fighters too! At Camp Eggbuckland, near Plymouth England, the Englishmen used to sing a song that was the opposite of morale raising and showed their lack of Zionism.

Part 3 - Correspondence continued

A. Egypt

Jews were more enthusiastic in Egypt. Porter looked forward to going to Palestine. Training was constant. There was lots of marching. He ended up in the hospital with malaria. He actually told Fannie he was fine due to the censorship in the mail.

B. Palestine

In 1918, he sent back some photos of the area around Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. In November 1918, he was sent back to Egypt to convalesce. He told Fannie he was on vacation. He wrote about the armistice as if it were just another day. Fannie wrote back and told him about the celebrations in the streets. He wrote that in Kantara [location of the base for a huge British military operation of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force during World War I] it was very peaceful. Nothing seemed to happen there.



William Porter (r) Jerusalem - Wailing Wall 1918

In 1919 he returned to Palestine. He was in

Surafend [a Bedouin village in Palestine]. The war was over. More than 100,000 Legionnaires were written about in the daily news in the U.S. He told her not to believe everything she reads in the papers.

C. Spanish Flu

During this time Fannie came down with the Spanish flu but didn't tell William until after she had recovered. She was attending dances and was involved in putting on shows.

D. He wrote about "The Schnorers", who put on shows in Surafend.

He also wrote a newspaper, *RePORTEd*. He hand typed his newsletter. One article was entitled, "Baseball in Jerusalem".

Part 4 - Back in the States and Demobilization

A. Long Branch, N.J.

Young Judea went from a national to an international organization.

B. On Oct. 5, 1919, William wrote about leaving the camp in Kantara.

C. William and Fannie stayed friends, but they married other people.

Fannie married Harry Levene in 1923 in Philadelphia. William married Goldie Ravitz in Cleveland, Ohio in 1926. He moved out west.

D. He returned Fannie's letters and an embroidered handkerchief she had made for him.

She saved all of his letters! David's mother shared the story with David after his grandmother's death.

Part 5 - The search for William's family

A. David discovered that William passed away in 1978 in Los Angeles at the age of 80.

He had two sons who were also deceased by 2014.

B. David put up a message on the JewishGen website and received two responses.

One of these was from a JewishGen researcher in Maine who is related to Goldie RAVITZ, and who connected him with the surviving family. Mavis C. Porter from California is the widow of one of William's sons. She shared family photos and told David that William had been active in Jewish Legion veterans groups.

C. Fannie passed away in 1977.

Many resources are available for studying this time period in history including: Beit Hagdudim (Legion House) in Avichail, Israel; the Jabotinsky Institute in Tel Aviv; www.jabotinsky.org; www.findmypast.com; Young Judea Archives housed at the Center for Jewish History in New York City; *We are Coming Unafraid: The Jewish Legions and the Promised Land in the First World War*, Keren, Michael and Keren, Shlomit; *The Jewish Legion and the First World War*, Watts, Martin. ❖

Speaker: David Brill, Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia, has been researching his own family history in Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, and the United States for over 20 years. He is the coordinator of JGSGP's Russian Interest Group and has been active in transliterating documents, including all existing Jewish and vital records for his ancestral shtetl of Usvyaty, Russia. He also maintains a KehilaLinks page for Tuchin, Ukraine.

JEWISH BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF PHILADELPHIA



Acquired by Temple University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center in 2009, the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection documents the activities of the Greater Philadelphia Jewish community through the personal papers of civic and spiritual leaders and the records of cultural, educational, religious, and social service organizations established and operated by and for the Jewish community. Among the records, are collections from local Jewish beneficial organizations, or "landsmanshaftn."

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Jewish immigrants from the same town or shtetl in Central and Eastern Europe often banded together to form fraternal organizations. In addition to providing assistance to recently arrived landsleit, these member associations offered social events, medical and death benefits, and arranged for cemetery burial plots. Beneficial society records often include meeting minutes, membership ledgers, newsletters, event programs, correspondence regarding benefit disbursements, and cemetery plot reservations. Many of the early meeting minutes are written in Yiddish or German. There are online finding aids for five beneficial association collections housed at the SCRC:

American Hebrew Society Collection

The American Hebrew Society was founded in 1901 as the Roumanian Workingmen's Beneficial Association. The organization was later known as the Roumanian Hebrew Beneficial Association, and later, the American Hebrew Society. The collection includes correspondence, member dues ledgers, meeting minutes, and permits and cemetery plot reservations for Har Jehuda and Mt. Sharon Cemeteries.

Association newsletter, May 1954, Boslover Ahavas Achim Belzer Association Collection, SCRC183, Special Collections Research Center

Boslover Ahavas Achim Belzer Association Collection

The Boslover Ahavas Achim Belzer Association was organized as the Boslover Beneficial Association in 1903 by immigrants from Bohuslav, Ukraine. In 1952, they merged with the Ahavas Achim Belzer Beneficial Association, a fraternal organization that had merged with the Belz-Bessarabia Beneficial Association in the late 1940s. The collection contains newsletters, photographs, and the Boslover Beneficial Association charter.

Krakauer-Yampoler Beneficial Society Records

The Krakauer-Yampoler Beneficial Society is the merged organization of the Krakauer Beneficial Society and the Yampoler Beneficial Association. The Krakauer Beneficial Society was founded in 1876 by a group of Jewish immigrants from Krakow, Poland. From 1882-1946, the organization was called the Krakauer Beth Elohim Beneficial Society before changing its name to the Krakauer Beneficial Society. In 1997, the Society merged with the Yampoler Beneficial Association, an organization founded in 1925 by immigrants from Yampol, Ukraine. This collection contains correspondence, meeting minutes, membership ledgers, and newsletters.

Prushin-Shershow Beneficial Association Records

The Prushin-Shershow Beneficial Association was organized in September 1889 by immigrants from the modern day Belarusian shtetls of Pruzhany and Shershev. The collection contains correspondence regarding benefits and cemetery plot reservations, meeting minutes, membership ledgers, and roll books.

Zitomirer Beneficial Association Records

The Zitomirer Beneficial Association was organized in 1916 by immigrants from Zhytomyr in present day Ukraine. The collection contains membership ledgers and material related to Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, including reservation plot lists and a map.

Finding aids and collection inventories for all five beneficial societies are available online

<https://library.temple.edu/scrc>

Research Requests

The SCRC reading room is located on the ground floor of Temple University's Paley Library and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Due to the unique, rare, valuable and often fragile nature of the items in our collection, the use of these materials often requires advance notice for retrieval which can be done online using your SCRC Researcher Account <https://temple.aeon.atlas-sys.com/logon>

For general inquiries or questions about setting up your SCRC Researcher Account email scrc@temple.edu or call (215) 204-8257.

PREVIEW OF 2016 SUMMER GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

The 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in downtown Seattle, Washington from August 7 to 12, 2016. Registration is open, at www.iajgs2016.org

The program schedule can be found at:
http://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2016/program_schedule.cfm

Clicking on to the “Program” tab at www.iajgs2016.org/ will give you more detailed information.

- The special theme for this conference is “Westward Ho” or Jewish migration to the United States and westward within the United States.

- A major emphasis during this conference will be on the Sephardic experience in the United States and elsewhere. Seattle is home to the second largest Sephardic community in the U.S.

- The opening session, on Sunday evening, will feature a keynote address by Dr. Devin Naar, Sephardic Studies Program Chair and Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Washington.

- Programs during the conference include full-length presentations, shorter presentations, panel discussions, computer workshops, SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings and luncheons, BOF (Birds of Feather) meetings and Breakfasts with the Experts. These will take place from Sunday morning to Friday at noon. In addition, a film festival will occur concurrently with the other events. Opportunities to network with other genealogists will occur throughout the conference.

- Another special event will be a Sunday morning “Educators Forum,” which will have special emphasis and genealogical presentations aimed at those in education.

Save the Date! August 7-12, 2016

The 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy



For complete conference
information go to
<http://iajgs2016.org/>



**Come to Seattle for the conference – then stay to
explore the wonders of the Pacific Northwest**

Connect with your extended Jewish family in beautiful downtown Seattle

- Lectures, workshops and presentations
- Hands-on help with the latest genealogical technology, translations, databases and search tools
- Exhibits and films
- Special programs devoted to Sephardi families, the westward migration of Jews, patterns of relocation in Europe and around the world

For more
information, email
info@iajgs2016.org
to reach the three
conference chairs:
Janette Silverman,
Chuck Weinstein,
Phyllis Grossman

- There will be a share fair on Sunday afternoon, featuring many SIGs and area resources.
- In addition to great food and conversation, the gala banquet on Thursday evening will feature an address by the renowned genealogist, Judy Russell.

- Ancestry.com will have a major presence at the conference.

Also check out the many other special events that will happen during the conference week.

This year, conference attendees can read daily blog messages which provide interesting profiles of speakers along with descriptions of their upcoming presentations.

Blog link: <http://www.iajgs2016.org/blog/>. If you prefer to receive the daily messages through your email, there is an option in the right hand margin which enables you to subscribe to the blog

Looking forward to seeing you in the Emerald City! ❖

Joel Spector,
Programming Chairperson, 2016 IAJGS Conference

JGSGP GENEALOGY QUIZ #8:

by Evan Fishman

According to this 1910 U.S. Census, Lillie Shanin was living with her immigrant family in St. Joseph, Missouri, approximately 30 miles north of Kansas City. Her youngest child was a well-known politician who also had roots in the Midwest. This politico served on the Warren Commission and helped develop the "single-bullet theory," which suggested that President John F. Kennedy and Texas Governor John Connally were wounded by the same bullet. Who was this individual?

You'll find the answer to this issue's quiz on the bottom right hand side of p. 2

STATE Missouri		COUNTY Buchanan		TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Washington Townships		NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE St. Joseph City		ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 15th DAY OF April 1910		SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. 42-4		SHEET No. 1 A			
NAME OF INSTITUTION X		THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 - POPULATION 76		WARD OF CITY 5th Ward Part 1		ENUMERATOR John H. Eiders									
LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY			CITIZEN	SPEECH		OCCUPATION		EDUCATION		INDUSTRY OF SIBLING	
				Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.		Whether able to speak English or if not, give language spoken.	Whether able to read English or if not, give language spoken.	Kind of profession, trade, occupation, or service.	Whether ever attended school.	Whether ever in military or naval service.			
1012 1 1	Mary Emma M. Lloyd, H.	Head	W 30 3 3	Missouri	Ill. German	Ill. German	English	Cashier	Teacher	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1020 2 2	Joseph J. Gaby	Head	W 30 16 11	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	Officer	Engineer	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Sarah	Wife	W 28 11 11	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 30 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Rosie	Daughter	W 7 3 3	Engl. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Abraham W.	Son	W 7 3 3	Engl. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Rachel	Daughter	W 5 3 3	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
702 3 3	Shanin Max	Head	W 34 11 10	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Frida	Wife	W 32 11 10	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Lillie	Daughter	W 9 3 3	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Magnel	Son	W 7 3 3	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Louis	Son	W 2 3 3	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
806 4 4	Spalsbury Elizabeth	Head	W 52 10 1	Missouri	Ill. German	Ill. German	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	George C.	Son	W 26 11 1	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	William H.	Son	W 33 10 1	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Abraham W.	Son	W 7 3 3	Engl. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Rachel	Daughter	W 5 3 3	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
702 3 3	Shanin Max	Head	W 34 11 10	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Frida	Wife	W 32 11 10	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Lillie	Daughter	W 9 3 3	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Magnel	Son	W 7 3 3	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Louis	Son	W 2 3 3	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 10 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
806 4 4	Spalsbury Elizabeth	Head	W 52 10 1	Missouri	Ill. German	Ill. German	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	George C.	Son	W 26 11 1	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	William H.	Son	W 33 10 1	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	English	None	None	W 40 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

HAVE EXPERTISE IN GENEALOGY, WILL TRAVEL JGSGP SPEAKERS BUREAU

We are proud of our Speakers Bureau and wish to reach a broader audience in the greater Philadelphia Jewish community.

We have speakers available for synagogue groups and organizations to help their members get started in tracing their family roots. Please contact Stan and Shelda Sandler at stanshel@msn.com for more details. Our publicity flyer can be found at: http://www.jgsgp.org/Documents/Speakers_Bureau.pdf

The following Speakers Bureau guidelines have been approved by the JGSGP board of trustees.

- There is a \$100 fee for a speaker.
- The fee will be waived if five attendees join the JGSGP after the presentation: speaker receives five completed JGSGP membership applications and a \$25 check with each.
- Presentations are given to groups of at least ten adults interested in genealogy.
- Presentations can be made at synagogues and affiliated groups such as men's clubs, sisterhoods, and organizations like ORT and Hadassah, within a 20-30 mile radius of Philadelphia.
- Schools, JCC's, and retirement homes will be considered on a case-by-case basis as long as they agree with the above guidelines.

SPEAKERS BUREAU PROFILE: FRED BLUM

Fred started his attorney service in 1971 and obtained his Private later he became interested in his and was able to locate his ancestors identified over 1200 family members.

With the knowledge he obtained, he International Red Cross Holocaust reconnect Jewish, Polish and recognition of his excellent work he "Volunteer of the Year" Award from started to volunteer for the United (USHMM). Fred is currently helping children who were orphaned during the

During his talks to organizations uses to locate individuals through prospective researchers to locate family, uncover distant relatives, assist in searching for heirs, and locate missing plaintiffs, defendants and witnesses. ❖



company, B&R Services for Professional-Detective license in 1988. Ten years family history. He studied genealogy going back to 1810. To date he has identified

decided in 2005 to volunteer for the International Red Cross Holocaust Tracing Service to try to assist the IRC Ukrainian Holocaust survivors. In was awarded the local and national the IRC in 2006. In 2011 Fred also States Holocaust Memorial Museum ing the museum locate European children period 1933-1945.

Fred teaches some of the techniques he genealogy. This information enables searching for heirs, and locate missing



Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia 2016 Membership & Renewal Form

Enjoy *Chronicles*, Our Award Winning Quarterly Publication

Please print, complete and mail this form with your check to
JGSGP, 1657 The Fairway, #145, Jenkintown, PA 19046

You may also complete our online form and pay your dues using Paypal on our web site: <http://www.jgsgp.org/>

All members receive e-mail copies of *Chronicles* as part of their dues. If you would like to have a paper *Chronicles* mailed to you, please check the & include an additional \$10 with your dues to help cover mailing and printing.

Membership Categories	New	Renewal	Paper <i>Chronicles</i>	Amount
Individual - \$25			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Family - \$35 (2 Person Household)			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Sponsor - \$50			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Patron - \$100			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Additional Voluntary Contribution				
Please enclose check payable to JGSGP in the amount of:				

Name (please print) _____

Additional Name(s) _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (____) _____ email: _____

Family Membership second email: _____

Dues are for the calendar year, January 1-December 31, 2016.

(New members joining after September 30, 2016 receive membership benefits through December 31, 2017.)

Contributions and dues are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

What are the most important surnames and their associated ancestral towns that you are researching?
Provide up to three surnames, towns and current countries which will later be shared with other members.

Surname	Town	Country



JGSGP CALENDAR & REMINDERS

Our U.S. mail address is: 1657 The Fairway, #145 Jenkintown, PA 19046

JGSGP is on the web at: <http://www.jgsgp.org>

Look for information about other IAJGS member societies:

<http://www.iajgs.org/members/members.html>

Join the JGSGP Facebook group: <http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp>.



A thirty minute period before each meeting is devoted to browsing reference books and getting help from mentors. Please check your JGSGP emails, our website (<http://jgsgp.org>) and our Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp>) for complete and up to the minute program information.

Sunday, May 22, 2016 1:30 PM

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA 19027
Andrew Zalewski, M.D., Ph.D., Author of *Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots*
“Jewish Galicia (1772-1918): Lives at the Crossroads”



Andrew Zalewski is a cardiologist who despite a busy professional life published two books on Galicia, a rewarding experience in which he discovered amazing details about his family and the people of Galicia. The latest, *Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots*, is more than a record of one family. Anchored in Austrian Galicia, it also covers centuries of Jewish history in the region, before and after Galicia existed. Large cities and small towns are the tale’s backdrop. In them, people from a variety of ethnic groups live alongside a large community of Israelites.

Consistent with the theme "The Wandering Jew" the talk brings to life the Jewish community of Galicia. Personal discoveries are intertwined with a broader historical context. The author’s new book will be available for sale after the talk. Personal checks or cash accepted. \$35/copy.

Sunday, June 19, 2016 1:30 PM

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA 19027
Leora Tec, Director, Bridge to Poland and Holocaust Scholar
“The Persistence of Memory: What Happens When All the Survivors Are Gone?”



How will we remember the Holocaust when those who lived through it are gone? How will we hold on to a multiplicity of stories and avoid the stereotypes that can erase the nuances of individual lives? Who is tasked with remembrance and what does it look like?

Through the lens of her experience as the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and scholar, and through her own experiences and connections with Polish scholars and artists who are grappling with this history, Leora teases out the many ways of answering these questions. She addresses both the challenges and the unexpected clarity that can come from embracing the details of a human life, and finds ways to uncover hope, even in the fragments of this shattered history.

Leora is the daughter of Holocaust survivor and Holocaust scholar, Nechama Tec. She views her work as the second generation of her mother’s work on rescue and resistance during the Holocaust. (Nechama Tec is the author of the book *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans*, which was made into the 2008 film entitled “Defiance” starring Daniel Craig).

Sunday, September 11, 2016 1:00 PM

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA 19027
JGSGP’s Annual Jewish Genealogy Fair

For details and to offer your expertise and assistance at the Fair, email to: jgsgpfair2016@verizon.net

Deadline for submission of articles for our spring issue is
Sunday, May 22, 2016. Please send material to: editor@jgsgp.org